



*Chair, Families & Human
Services Committee
Appropriations Committee:
Chair, Family Independence
Agency, Commerce, Labor
& Economic Development,
Capital Outlay,
Higher Education*

*SENATOR
BILL HARDIMAN*

E-Hardiman Herald



HARDIMAN HERALD – JUNE 2006

HARDIMAN'S FIRE BUREAU CONSOLIDATION BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

Senate Bills 1133-1145, along with House Bills 5860-5871, are part of a package of bills that were signed into law by the Governor on June 16, 2006. This package seeks to:

- 1) Create in statute the Bureau of Fire Services within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth.
- 2) Grant the Bureau all of the authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities transferred from the Fire Marshal Division of the Department of State Police to DLEG under Executive Reorganization Order 2003-1.
- 3) Amend a series of other acts to reflect in statute the organization, duties, and powers of the new Bureau of Fire Services.

Senator Haridman's bill, SB 1143, will amend the Michigan Penal Code (MCL 750.243b) to refer to forms provided by the Bureau of Fire Services, rather than the MSP Director, for fireworks permits.

HARDIMAN ADDS MONEY INTO DHS BUDGET FOR SENIOR FOOD PROGRAM

As Chair of the Senate Human Services budget, Senator Bill Hardiman added \$25,000 to the FY '07 budget for an elderly food assistance program in Kent County. The contract would be for outreach and access to programs for low-income elderly individuals, if signed by the Governor.

The Department of Human Services budget successfully passed the Senate with the funding in tact and has been sent to a conference committee where budget differences will be hammered out. Once a compromise between Senate and House leaders is made, the bill will be sent the Governor for her approval. If signed into law, the funds will become available starting October 1, 2006.

HARDIMAN INTRODUCES LEGISLATION PROTECTING SENIORS

Senator Hardiman has introduced Senate Bill 1308, which seeks to amend the General Property Tax Act. This bill would attempt to protect the nonprofit charitable tax exemptions for certain homes for the aged, assisted living and skilled nursing facilities as well as other nonprofit organizations. There has been a movement around the state to start taxing these nonprofit charitable facilities which would likely result in increased fees for our seniors and most vulnerable populations. Hardiman's goal would be to simply maintain the property tax exemptions these facilities have always maintained and not to expand this exemption to groups that have not been exempt in previous years.

SUMMER BOATING SAFETY

When you're out enjoying our states wonderful waters this summer please remember that life jackets save lives. Eighty percent of people who drown while boating are not wearing their life jacket. You can make boating fun and safe – make sure everyone in your boat wears their life jacket. And remember, in Michigan, it's the law for all children under six. When you enjoy Michigan's lakes and waterways this summer, be boat safe and boat smart.

BEAT THE HEAT!

As temperatures rise, residents need to remember the different ways they can keep their families safe from Michigan's celebrated hot summer weather. Here are a few tips from the Kent County Health Department on how to keep safe from heat related illness

- DRINK PLENTY OF LIQUIDS, ESPECIALLY WATER. TRY TO STAY AWAY FROM ALCOHOLIC AND CAFFEINATED DRINKS BECAUSE THESE CAN WORK AS A DIURETIC.
- SPORTS DRINKS ARE GOOD CHOICE BECAUSE NOT ONLY DO THEY HYDRATE YOUR BODY BUT THEY REPLACE NUTRIENTS YOUR BODY HAS LOST THROUGH PERSPIRATION
- AVOID EXCESSIVE ACTIVITIES OUTDOORS ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 11 AM AND 4PM BECAUSE THE SUN IS AT ITS HIGHEST POINT AND THE AIR TEMPERATURE IS AT ITS PEEK.
- REMEMBER TO WEAR LOOSE FITTING CLOTHES AND WEAR SUNSCREEN WHEN OUTDOORS
- WHEN INDOORS KEEP ALL WINDOWS POSSIBLE OPEN AND KEEP AIR CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE. KEEP SHADES BLINDS AND SHADES CLOSED TO HELP KEEP TEMPERATURE IN THE HOUSE DOWN.

MOST IMPORTANTLY NEVER EVER LEAVE A CHILD OR PET IN THE CAR, EVEN WITH THE WINDOWS ROLLED DOWN – THE HEAT CAN BE FATAL

SENATOR HARDIMAN DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Senator Hardiman will be holding monthly district office hours the first Monday of each month from 10:00am - 11:30am throughout the 29th district. Be sure to talk to the Senator at these upcoming office hours:

- **Monday, July 10, 2006, Red Hot Inn, 3175 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525**
- **Monday, August 7, 2006, Grand Rapids Urban League, 745 Eastern Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Senator Hardiman will hold this time each month so constituents of the 29th district have an opportunity to speak with him one-on-one about any questions or concerns they may have regarding state issues. You can also contact Senator Hardiman via his toll-free number: 1-866-305-2129 or visit Senator Hardiman's homepage to set-up a meeting outside of the district hours, www.senate.michigan.gov/hardiman

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Hardiman Herald is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of Senator Bill Hardiman's activity in Lansing. If you have any questions, please contact Senator Hardiman's office.

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